

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1614

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

INFO USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NATO, MARR, IC, SP

SUBJ: INTERVIEW WITH CORTES DEPUTY AFTER ATLANTIC TREATY
ASSOCIATION ASSEMBLY IN ICELAND

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. (ALIANZA POPULAR DEPUTY GONZALO FERANDEZ DE LA MORA
GAVE FOLLOWING INTERVIEW TO CONSERVATIVE MORNING DAILY ABC
ON HIS RETURN FROM REYKJAVIK WHERE HE ATTENDED THE
ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION.)

Q: WHO DESIGNATED YOU TO ATTEND THIS MEETING?

A: THE PRESIDENT OF THE ATA INVITED A.P. TO SEND AN OBSERVER,
AND THE PARTY DESIGNATED ME. OF COURSE EVERYTHING
WAS DONE WITH LITTLE TIME, SINCE WE HAD THE FIRST NOTICE A
VERY SHORT TIME BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY BEGAN. LATER I FOUND
OUT THAT TWO OTHER SPANISH PARTIES WERE INVITED, BUT THEY
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DID NOT SEND OBSERVERS.

Q: WAS THERE IMPORTANT PARTICIPATION?

A: ALMOST TWO HUNDRED PERSONS FROM 15 COUNTRIES ATTENDED,
THE MAJORITY PARLIAMENTARIANS, POLITICAL LEADERS, AMBASSADORS,
POLITICAL SCIENTISTS AND HIGH MILITARY CHIEFS. AMONG THE
SPEAKERS WERE NATO SYG LUNS, ADMIRAL KIDD, SUPREME COMMANDER
OF THE ATLANTIC, AND PROFESSOR ROSTOW. EVEN THOUGH, AS I

SAID, THE MEETING DID NOT HAVE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL CHARACTER, HIGH OFFICIALS FIGURED IN ALL THE DELEGATIONS, SUCH AS SENOR JAEGER, PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN PARLIAMENT AND A GREAT FRIEND OF MINE, AMBASSADOR ROBERTS OF THE U.K., WHOM I ALSO KNOW AND RESPECT HIGHLY, AND THE NORWEGIAN STATE SECRETARY FOR DEFENSE.

Q: WAS THE QUESTION OF SPAIN DISCUSSED?

A: ON THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 27TH I WAS THE FIRST DELEGATE WHO SPOKE. I THANKED THEM FOR THE INVITATION WHICH HAD MADE POSSIBLE FOR THE FIRST TIME THE PRESENCE OF A SPANIARD AT A MEETING OF THE ATA. MY REFERENCE TO THIS FACT WAS GREETED WITH APPLAUSE. SENOR MUMMER, PRESIDENT OF THE ATA AND AN OUTSTANDING GERMAN POLITICAL LEADER, REPLIED IN A LONG SPEECH. WHEN HE REFERRED VERY CORDIALLY TO OUR COUNTRY HE WAS INTERRUPTED BY AN OVATION. I HELD CONVERSATIONS WITH A MAJORITY OF THE PERSONALITIES ATTENDING, AND I NOTED, ESPECIALLY IN THE GERMAN, FRENCH, ENGLISH AND ICELANDIC DELEGATES, A FERVENT DESIRE THAT SPAIN INCORPORATE HERSELF INTO THE NORTH ATLANTIC ORGANIZATION.

Q: WHAT ATTITUDE DID YOU TAKE ON THIS SUBJECT?

A: I WAS A SIMPLE OBSERVER, AND COULD NOT TAKE A POSITION. ON THIS POINT, AS WELL, IT FALLS WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT; BUT I EXPRESSED THE POSITION OF ALIANZA POPULAR, WHICH, AS YOU KNOW, FAVORS THE CLOSE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND MILITARY COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONS OF THE FREE WORLD.

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Q: IF SPAIN WERE TO SOLICIT MEMBERSHIP IN NATO, WOULD THE RESPONSE BE AFFIRMATIVE?

A: I BELIEVE SO. EVEN MORE, I BELIEVE IT PROBABLE THAT THEY WOULD GRANT US SPECIAL ECONOMIC MEASURES TO UNDERTAKE THE CORRESPONDING MILITARY OBLIGATIONS.

Q: WHAT IMPRESSION DID YOU GET OF NATO?

A: THE INTERVENTION OF ADMIRAL KIDD AND THE IMPORTANT FINAL RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY POINTED OUT THE FACT, SURELY SERIOUS, THAT SOVIET REARMAMENT, ESPECIALLY IN THE NAVAL AND CONVENTIONAL FIELDS, HAS CREATED A TENDENCY WHICH IF CONTINUED WILL END WITH A MILITARY SUPERIORITY FOR THE USSR. THIS IS THE FUNDAMENTAL PREOCCUPATION WHICH WAS APPARENT IN REYKJAVIK. ALL AFFIRMED THAT AN URGENT INTERSIFICATION OF MILITARY FORCE IN THE WEST IS NECESSARY SO THAT NATO CAN CONTINUE TO BE A CONVINCING DETERRENT IN FACE OF THE SOVIET CHALLENGE.

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Q. WHAT DID YOU THINK OF ICELAND?

A: IT IS A NATION OF SLIGHTLY OVER 200,000 INHABITANTS,
ON AN ATTRACTIVE AND DIFFICULT LAND; BUT IN THE LAST
DECADE IT HAS MADE A SOCIOECONOMIC EFFORT SO GREAT THAT
IT RAPIDLY REACHED A HIGH STANDARD OF LIVING. THE
ICELANDER IS OF THE NORDIC RACE, HE SEEMS VERY YOUNG, AND
PORNOGRAPHY IS OUTSTANDING BY ITS ABSENCE. ICELAND, IS,
FROM A STRATEGIC POINT OF VIEW, ONE OF THE MOST ESSENTIAL
LOCATIONS FOR NATO. ASIDE FROM THE COMMUNISTS AND A
FEW MARXIST GROUPS, THE REST OF PUBLIC OPINION, THAT
IS TO SAY ABOUT 75 PERCENT, IS IN FAVOR OF ICELAND'S
MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. AS MUCH AMONG THE POLITICIANS AS IN THE
STREET, I NOTICED A GREAT SYMPATHY TOWARDS SPAIN, AND A
DESIRE TO INCREASE THE COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES WHICH COULD BE
MUCH GREATER, SINCE ICELAND IMPORTS ALMOST EVERYTHING. ITS
PRINCIPAL RESOURCES ARE FISHING AND ENERGY, HYDRAULIC AS
WELL AS GEOTHERMAL.

Q: DID YOU SPEAK WITH ANY ICELANDIC PERSONALITIES?

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A: YES. WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN MINISTER, THE
CHIEFS OF THE TWO PRINCIPAL PARTIES, AND WITH NUMEROUS
PARLIAMENTARIANS; AS A MATTER OF FACT ONE OF THEM, SENOR
HEDINSSON, SPEAKS PERFECT SPANISH. THE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC, SENOR ELDPARN, WHO IS OF THE MAJORITY PARTY,

WAS GRACIOUS ENOUGH TO INVITE ME TO A VERY RESTRICTED
RECEPTION IN HIS RESIDENCE, AND EXPRESSED HIMSELF IN
VERY EFFUSIVE TERMS ABOUT SPAIN. I SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT
ICELAND IS, AMONG THE NORDIC STATES, THE BEST FRIEND WE
HAVE.

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2. DE LA MORA IS A FORMER MINISTER UNDER FRANCO AND IS
CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MOST RIGHT-WING MEMBERS OF THE AP
WHICH ONLY HAS 16 ELECTED DEPUTIES. THERE CAN BE SAID TO
BE SOME QUESTION AS TO HOW MUCH HIS VIEWS EVEN REFLECT THE
POSITION OF HIS PARTY, MUCH LESS THE CORTES AS A WHOLE.
FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, IT IS A SHAME THAT THERE WERE
NOT IN ATTENDANCE REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER PARTS OF THE SPANISH
POLITICAL SPECTRUM, ESPECIALLY THE PSOE AND THE UCD, WHICH AS
THE TWO LARGEST PARTIES WILL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT PLAYERS
IN THE EVENTUAL DEBATE ON NATO MEMBERSHIP.EATON

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